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# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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Cover: Common Loon that summered on Piney Run Reservoir in Carroll County takes fish while fishermen watch enviously; see page 95. Photo by Anne Moretti, May 31, 1987.



## **A SPRING RECORD FOR BRIDLED TERN (*Sterna anaethetus*) IN MARYLAND WATERS**

**WAYNE KLOCKNER**

On June 7, 1986 I was on the headboat *Mariner* on a pelagic birdwatching trip out of Ocean City, Maryland. At 4:45 p.m. we were about 20 miles ESE of Ocean City when two dark terns were seen approximately 150 yards away. When first spotted they were behind the boat, but we quickly turned and pursued them. During the ten minutes they were in view they approached to within about 75 yards of the boat. The sky was mostly overcast, with occasional weak sun, the winds were SE at 10-15 MPH, and the seas were choppy with 3-5 foot waves. My observations were made through Leitz 8x40 roof-prism binoculars. At least 30 of the observers on the boat saw the birds, including Maurice Barnhill, Roger Clapp, Harvey and Marion Mudd, and Paul and Michael O'Brien.

My field notes (made immediately after the sighting and independently of the other observers) include the following:

Both birds were essentially identical except that one appeared slightly larger. The long, slim shape; long, pointed wings; deeply forked tail; and slow, strong wingbeats identified them as terns. They appeared slightly larger than a Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), many of which were seen on the same trip. The wingbeats were strong, deliberate, and somewhat shallow, except when one would make a swooping dive toward the water. Neither bird actually dove into the sea. The flight was steady and fairly direct. They had no difficulty outpacing the boat, which reached a top speed of 10-12 knots. Proportionately they appeared rather short-tailed and long-winged.

The following plumage description, written in the singular, applies to both birds:

The bill was all dark (black?), sharply pointed, and long. The forehead and crown were whitish, and the nape was black, which contrasted with a pale gray collar. The mantle (including the dorsal surface of the wings), rump, and tail were a solid dark grayish brown. Ventrally the bird was white from bill to tail. The color of the undertail was not noted. The underside of the wings appeared white except for the flight feathers, which were darker. Overall my impression was of a mid-sized tern that was dark above and white below, with a pale gray collar, blackish nape, and a white forehead that extended back to the crown and faded into the black nape. The white on the crown extended down on the face to a dark line that ran from the bill through the eye and into the nape.

I identified both birds as Bridled Terns (*S. anaethetus*). I have seen this species on three other occasions (a total of six individuals), including the previous September off of Ocean City. Other observers on the boat concurred with the identification.

After returning to Ocean City I reviewed the species accounts and illustrations in Harrison's *Seabirds: An Identification Guide* (Houghton Mifflin, 1983). According to Harrison the birds were probably sub-adults, as evidenced by the whitish crown and apparent lack of white outer tail feathers. The dark upperparts lacked the pale tips to the feathers typical of juvenile plumage. This suggests the birds were in first-summer plumage, which according to Harrison is poorly known in Bridled Terns.

This is the first spring report of Bridled Tern from Maryland. Rowlett (1980) considered the species to be a "casual late summer visitant," and the three previous records are from August and September. Robbins and Bystrak (1977) list Bridled Tern as accidental with one on September 12, 1960 from Salisbury, and another on September 26, 1976 42 kilometers ESE of Ocean City, photographed by Rowlett (*Maryland Birdlife* 33: 31-33). Rowlett also reported one bird 10 miles SE of Ocean City on August 24, 1980 (*American Birds* 35:168).

I was surprised by the appearance of these terns so early in the year and relatively close to shore. Bridled Terns are often associated with tropical storms (the Salisbury record was of two birds seen as the eye of Hurricane Donna passed over the city), but no storms had passed through the region prior to the trip, and we had encountered no warm-water Gulf Stream eddies with which tropical species are often associated.

#### Literature Cited

- Harrison, P. 1983. *Seabirds: An identification guide*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston. 448 p.  
Robbins, C.S., and D. Bystrak. 1977. *Field list of the Birds of Maryland*. Maryland Avifauna 2, Md. Ornith. Soc., Baltimore. 45 p.  
Rowlett, R.A. 1980. Observations of marine birds and mammals in the northern Chesapeake Bight. USFWS Biological Services Program. FWS/OBS 80-04. 87 p.

*12123 Dove Circle, Laurel, Maryland 20708*

[This record has been accepted by the M.O.S. Records Committee — Ed.]

## LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER: THE FIRST FOR HOWARD COUNTY

HARVEY MUDD

During the morning of August 31, 1985, I stopped at Green Manor Turf Farm on the west side of Route 32, several miles south of Sykesville. The Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) flock had been building up on the large open spaces of this

farm for several weeks, and there was some hope that another species of "grasspiper" might drop in. This hope was fulfilled by the sighting of a plover, larger in the body than the Killdeer, with longer legs, a longer, thinner neck, and a much more upright posture. The white underparts were mottled and splotched with areas of deep black, immediately identifying the bird as either an adult Black-bellied (*Pluvialis squatarola*) or Lesser Golden (*P. dominica*) Plover in molt from alternate to basic plumage.

From the access road to the farm it was possible to approach within 60 or 70 yards of the bird and observe it through a telescope at up to 50X. The back was dark black-brown with lighter spots of yellowish-white. A dark area extended from the bill back through the eye and over the ear coverts. Above the dark, an area of almost pure white covered the front of the face, extending into a broad supercilium on each side, hooking down behind the ear coverts and continuing along the sides of the neck. This gave the bird a strikingly capped appearance. The cheeks were a lighter gray. The foreneck and upper breast were grayish with darker, obscure streaking. The bill was thin and dark. The distance from the base to the tip of the bill was about equal to the distance from the base of the bill to the eye. The splotching on the belly clearly extended to the undertail coverts. Because the bird remained on the ground the spread wings, the uppertail coverts, and the axillars could not be seen. Nevertheless, the marks noted seemed sufficient to establish with reasonable certainty that the bird was a golden-plover.

Reference to the Preliminary Checklist of the Birds of Howard County (J. Solem, D. Holmes, and M. Chestem, *Howard*, Vol. 13, No. 6, May-June 1985) confirmed that there had been no previous sightings of Lesser Golden-Plover in Howard County. Having no camera with me I made a hasty trip to the nearest public phone in Sykesville and tried to call the three active Howard County birders whose telephone numbers I happened to have with me. Not surprisingly for a fine Saturday morning, no one was at home. Deciding that if the bird departed without being seen by anyone else it was important to have checked all possible field marks, I returned to the turf farm and obtained permission from the owners to walk to the area where the bird was seen. Upon doing so a second plover was found, very similar to the first in structure and field marks, except that the molt was more advanced. There was far less black on the underparts, and the black on the undertail coverts occurred chiefly as barring. The birds were then flushed and circled about me once or twice. Neither had white on the uppertail coverts or rump, and the wings had at most very obscure white stripes formed by the light tips of the greater coverts, but lacked extensive white in the shafts of the primaries. The axillars were gray, not black. These marks confirmed that the birds were Lesser Golden-Plovers.

Fortunately the birds lingered and were seen later that day by Gerry Newton, Jane Farrell, and Jo Solem. They were refound by many others on ensuing days.

9507 Wadsworth Drive, Bethesda, Md. 20817

[The birds remained at the Turf Farm for three days. This article is reprinted from the Howard County newsletter. — Ed.]

## FIRST UPPER CHESAPEAKE BAY RECORD OF SANDWICH TERN

HANK KAESTNER

On Sunday, June 8, 1986, accompanied by my brother Peter and Mac Plant, I visited Hart – Miller Island, the dredge spoil impoundment about one mile east of Miller's Island in the Baltimore County section of Chesapeake Bay. At 9:20 a.m., after having birded for about an hour along the southern edge of the south impoundment we found ourselves near the intersection of the cross-dike. With the sun at our backs we were examining a flock of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) and terns resting on a sandbar about 100 yards offshore.

Using my 30x spotting scope I soon found a breeding plumaged Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) sitting between a Laughing Gull and a Forster's Tern (*S. forsteri*). I immediately pointed the bird out to Peter and Mac and began to dance. Notes taken on the spot read as follows: "mid-size between the Laughing Gull and the Forster's Tern that were in the same field of view. Short black legs. Top of head, including through eye, black, slightly crested at the rear of the head. Mantle lighter gray than Common Terns (*S. hirundo*) sitting nearby. Bill black, tipped the last 15-20 percent with gold-yellow. Bill very long, longer than head, seemingly drooping. A small white patch of feathers visible just behind the bill between the black gape and the black cap. Underparts and tail pure white, the outer tail feathers elongated, especially evident as the bird turned to preen its tail. Because of the short legs the wings gave the impression of "drooping" and nearly touching the ground."

The bird was under observation for 25 minutes. We were using two 30x telescopes. The light was excellent. It was sunny, about 80°, with a 10-15 mph wind from the south-southwest. After twenty-five minutes the bird took flight, showing a very pale uniform mantle and wings. There were no discernible black feathers in the wingtips. The bird flew strongly east and out of sight over the Bay. Two hours later, after completing our tour of the dike, we returned to the same spot. The tern was again resting on the sandbar.

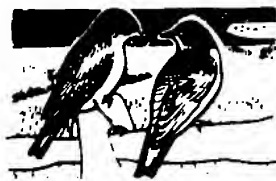
Two of the observers are very familiar with the species, having seen it throughout its world range, and many times in Florida and North Carolina. Although there is no way of knowing when the bird arrived at Hart – Miller, the previous day a tropical depression (called Andrew) came up the coast from the Caribbean. It passed North Carolina on Friday and the mouth of Chesapeake Bay on Saturday. The winds on the upper Bay were a brisk 10-15 mph from the south Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

This is the first record of Sandwich Tern for Baltimore County and the upper Bay. The number of records in the lower part of the Maryland portion of the Bay has increased in the past several years, and now totals at least six, including two years in a row (1984-85) at Point Lookout in St. Mary's County.

322 Pressway Road, Timonium MD 21093

[This record has been accepted by the Maryland Records Committee – Ed.]





## THE SEASON

### Breeding Season, June 1 - July 31, 1987

ROBERT F. RINGLER

This was the last summer of the Breeding Bird Atlas and it had its surprises as did all the preceding years. Many dedicated field workers struggled through another long, hot summer to complete the project.

The weather was notably hot and dry this summer. The drought set in severely on the Coastal Plain in July. Water levels at inland reservoirs again were depressed and yielded some shorebird information. The drought may have affected the breeding success of some species but it had a more noticeable effect on the amount of time spent in the field by conscientious birders.

The shorebird migration was particularly interesting this year as the spring was notably late, possibly related to the late full moon in June. Fortunately there were sufficient observers in strategic locations to monitor the highlights.

**Observers:** Chris Beaton, Rick Blom, Larry Bonham, Mike Bryan, David Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Sam Droege, Sam Dyke, Ethel Engle, Jane Farrell, Jerry & Roberta Fletcher (reporting for Caroline County), Helen & John Ford, Greg Gough, Jim & Trish Gruber, Marvin Hewitt, Jim Hill, Greg Kearns, Ray Kiddy, Dennis Kirkwood, Joan Mackiernan, Dotty Mumford, Mariana Nuttle, Michael & Paul O'Brien, Jim Paulus, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Wilbur Rittenhouse, Ron Runkles, Steve Simon, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Jim Stasz, Mary Twigg, Mark Wallace, Hal Wierenga, Joy Wheeler, Erika Wilson.

**Locations (counties in parentheses):** Brandon Shores (Anne Arundel), Choptank (Caroline), Cove Point (Calvert), Hart - Miller (Baltimore), Hollywood (St. Marys), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Hurlock (Dorchester), Kent Island (Queen Annes), Lake Haven (Worcester), Loch Raven (Baltimore), North Beach (Calvert), North Branch (Allegany), Piney Run (Carroll), Remington Farms (Kent), Swan Creek and Swan Point (Kent), Tanyard (Caroline), Tower Gardens (Queen Annes), Whalesville (Worcester).

**Abbreviations** - DC-District of Columbia, NWR-National Wildlife Refuge, PWRC-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, WMA-Wildlife Management Area, "+" indicates there were other observers.

**Loons, Grebes, Gannet.** Late migrant Common Loons were 1 near Grasonville on June 1 (Ricciardi, Mumford, Beaton), 1 in DC on June 10 (Czaplak) and 1 flying over Hart - Miller on June 14 (Ringler +); summering birds included 1 at Piney Run from May 31 into July (Anne Moretti +), 3 on Loch Raven on June 12 with at least 2 through the summer (Simon), 1 on the Patuxent River at Benedict on June 24 (Kearns) and 1 in Tavern Creek, Kent County from June 20 through July 25 (J.

Gruber). A Pied-billed Grebe was at Loch Raven on June 19 (Simon) but no evidence of nesting was seen. An adult was at Brandon Shores, a location where Pied-bills have nested in the past, on July 4 (Ringler) but no evidence of current nesting was seen there either. An adult at Hart - Miller on July 19 (Ringler + ) was probably a fall migrant. Horned Grebes lingering long past their normal departure time were 1 near Cox Creek Acres, Kent Island on June 8 (Ricciardi, Mumford) and 1 in breeding plumage in DC on June 9 (Czaplak). An immature Northern Gannet was seen off North Assateague on June 22 (Mackiernan) adding to recent summer sightings of this pelagic wintering bird.

*Pelicans, Cormorants.* An adult American White Pelican appeared at Havre de Grace from July 23 through August 10 (Wayne Meyer + ), usually on a sand bar off Tydings Island. Its occasional disappearances may explain the sighting of a White Pelican at Hart - Miller 24 miles down the bay on July 31 (Blom), certainly the same bird. A Brown Pelican was at the inlet at Ocean City on June 6 (Ringler). However, the best numbers for the season, encompassing the entire Ocean City area were 81 on June 28 (M. & P. O'Brien) and 23 on July 25 (M. O'Brien, Gough) and 50 in Sinepuxent Bay on July 4 (Dyke). The big Brown Pelican event of the season was the *nesting* of 6 pairs in the heronry off South Point (David Brinker + ). Michael O'Brien saw an immature Great Cormorant flying south past Sandy Point on July 1, the second summer record for the state. Interesting records of Double-crested Cormorants were 2 at Denton on June 2 (Hewitt), 8 in DC on June 4 (Czaplak), 1 at Loch Raven on June 6 (Wheeler), 1 on Lower Prospect Bay, Queen Annes County on June 22 (Ricciardi, Mumford), 1 on Upper Prospect Bay on June 26 (Ricciardi, Mumford, Beaton) and 2 at North Beach on July 24 (Stasz). High counts were 105 at Hart - Miller on July 19 (Ringler + ), 250 at Rock Hall on July 24 (J. Gruber) and 63 at Cove Point on July 25 (Stasz).

*Hérons, Ibis.* The few reports of the secretive Least Bittern were 2 at Hart - Miller on June 14 (Ringler + ), 1 at Piscataway Park on June 21 (Nistico), 1 at Hughes Hollow on July 17 (Bonham) and 3 at Decoursey Bridge, Dorchester County on July 18 (Wierenga, Ringler). Stasz's count of 38 Great Blue Herons at Cove Point on July 25 was the best away from a nest site. Small new Great Blue heronries were discovered near the west end of the Bay Bridge (H. Ford) and 2 on Kent Island (Ricciardi, Mumford, Beaton). Post-breeding Great Egrets were 1 at Hughes Hollow on July 6 (Bonham), 7 at Cove Point on July 25 (Stasz), 7 at Piney Run on July 31 (Ringler) and 3 at Hart - Miller on the latter date (Blom). A Snowy Egret in DC on June 6 and 2 at Hart - Miller on June 14 (Ringler + ) were probably wandering non-breeders; post-breeding birds included 58 at North Beach on July 1 (Stasz), 1 in DC on July 8 (Czaplak), 8 flying south over Swan Point on July 14 (J. Gruber) and 5 at Cove Point on July 25 (Stasz). Post-breeding Little Blue Herons were an immature at Blackwater on July 18 (Ringler), an adult and an immature at Tower Gardens on July 23 (Ricciardi) and an immature at Cove Point on July 25 (Stasz). Wandering Cattle Egrets in Queen Annes County were 1 near Centreville on June 3 and June 7 and 1 on Upper Prospect Bay on June 26 (Ricciardi, Mumford, Beaton) and 6 at Church Hill on July 4 (T. Gruber). Others were 1 at Rock Hall on July 7 (J. Gruber) and 5 at Tower Gardens on July 23 (Ricciardi). A Green-backed Heron was on a nest at 94th Street in Ocean City on June 13 (Ringler). Czaplak saw an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron flying over the Mall in DC on June 6. Jim Gruber saw an impressive flock of 42 Glossy Ibis flying downriver at Chestertown on July 27.



*Swans, Geese.* Eastern Neck NWR is still a major concentration point for Mute Swans as 97 were counted there on June 4 (J. Gruber). A late nesting by the pair of Mute Swans at the east end of the Bay Bridge produced small downy young on July 16 (Wierenga, Ringler). Summering Snow Geese in Worcester County were 1 adult at Lake Haven on June 13 through July 26 and 1 adult near Betheden on June 27 (both Ringler). Canada Geese numbered 43 flying over Cumberland on June 1 (Twigg), 5 at Deal Island WMA on June 7 (Ringler) and 125 (including young) at Loch Raven on June 19 (Simon).

*Ducks.* A female Wood Duck was unusual at Hart - Miller on June 14 (Ringler + ). High counts of Wood Ducks were 50 at Blackwater on June 27 (Ringler), 25 at Brandon Shores on July 4 (Ringler) and 46 at North Branch on July 5 (Twigg). Extremely rare in summer were 4 Green-winged Teal at Blackwater on June 27 (Ringler) and 1 at Hart - Miller on June 28 and later (Wierenga, Ringler + ). A female American Black Duck was shepherding 1 young in a marsh at Ocean City on June 6 (Ringler). High summer counts of Mallards were 140 at Blackwater on June 27 (Ringler) and 500 at Hart - Miller from June 28 into July (Ringler + ).

It was a great summer for seeing non-breeding ducks. Others at Hart - Miller which were extremely unusual for the season were 2 Northern Pintails on July 31 (Blom), 2 Blue-winged Teal on June 28 (Wierenga, Ringler), 4 Canvasbacks, 1 Greater Scaup and 8 Lesser Scaup through the summer (Ringler + ), 1 female Oldsquaw on June 28 (Wierenga, Ringler), 2 Buffleheads on June 14 (Ringler + ) and a flock of Ruddy Ducks that numbered up to 61 birds on June 28 (Wierenga, Ringler). A Ring-necked Duck summered at Hurlock (Ringler) where there was also a flock of Ruddy Ducks that numbered up to 11 on July 26 (M. O'Brien). Other Lesser Scaup were 1 near Bay City, Kent Island on June 17 (Ricciardi, Mumford) and 1 in Swan Creek on July 3 (J. Gruber). An impressive flock of Oldsquaws summered at Holly Beach Farm near Sandy Point with numbers dwindling from 70 on June 2 to 50 on June 24 to 30 on July 16 (Fords). Another Oldsquaw was south of Barren Island on June 15-19 (Mackiernan), 1 near Bay City, Kent Island on June 17 (Ricciardi, Mumford) and a female was at North Assateague on July 25 (M. O'Brien, Gough). A flying adult male Black Scoter was on Monie Bay on June 2 (Dyke), a drake Surf Scoter was at North Beach on July 17 (Stasz) and White-winged Scoters numbered 9 near Cox Creek Acres, Kent Island on June 8 (Ricciardi, Mumford), 2 near Tolchester on June 14 (J. Gruber) and 4 (3 drakes and 1 female) at North Assateague on June 22 (Mackiernan). Common Goldeneyes were represented by a female on Crab Alley Creek, Queen Annes County on June 8 (Ricciardi, Mumford), a drake in Tavern Creek, Kent County on June 20 (J. Gruber), 1 at Poplar Island on June 20 (Mackiernan) and 1 at Holly Beach Farm on July 16 (Fords). Single drake Buffleheads were at Kent Island on June 3 (Davidson) and at North Beach on June 8-27 (Stasz). Kearns found a female Common Merganser on Western Branch of the Patuxent River on June 23 and, on July 11; single females at Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary and Black Swamp Creek on the Patuxent. A drake Red-breasted Merganser was at Ocean City on July 25 (M. O'Brien, Gough) and a Ruddy Duck was at Holly Beach Farm from June 24 through July 16 (Fords + ). Rounding out the list of ducks this summer was a rare breeder in the state, as Michael O'Brien found a female Hooded Merganser with 3 young near Accident, Garrett County on July 10-12.

*Diurnal Raptors.* Young Black Vultures were sitting on an abandoned house at Shaffersville, Howard County on July 8 (David Holmes, Wallace). An Osprey was unusual inland at Loch Raven on June 26 (Simon) while a pair in DC partially built a nest

near National Airport (Czaplak). Details of an immature Mississippi Kite near PWRC on June 3 (M. O'Brien) have been submitted to the Records Committee. Sightings of Bald Eagles included a pair that fledged 3 young from a nest near Susquehanna State Park in Harford County (Kirkwood). This is one of only two Piedmont nests in the state. Two adults were seen on the Patapsco River below Ellicott City during June (Karen Skuldt, Steve Sanford). There were 2 eagles near Cedar Point, St. Marys County on June 24 (Bryan) and 5 at Remington Farms on July 30 (Grubers). The Northern Harrier that Stasz saw at Cove Point on July 25 may have wandered from a nesting area across the Bay as this is early for a typical migrant. Rarely seen in summer were a Cooper's Hawk on a nest in Howard County on June 12 (Wallace) and 1 south of Annapolis on July 1 (Davidson). A Broad-winged Hawk near Glen Burnie in northern Anne Arundel County on June 14 was observed carrying a snake (Ringler). An American Kestrel near Whaleyville on June 6 (Ringler) was in an area where this species has been found in previous summers and is presumed to nest.

*Rails, Gallinules, and Coots.* A Black Rail seen near Fairmount WMA on July 17 (Wierenga, Ringler) was in a new location for that species. Sightings of King Rails were 1 at Tanyard on June 24 (Engle), 1 at Wetipquin Creek in Wicomico County on July 16 and 2 at Drawbridge in Dorchester County on July 18 (both Wierenga, Ringler). Engle saw a Common Moorhen at Tanyard on June 18-25 and 1 was seen nest-building there on July 16 (Wierenga, Ringler). Two American Coots summered at Lake Haven near Berlin (Ringler).

*Plovers.* Late spring migrants at Ocean City were 2 Black-bellied Plovers on June 6 and 1 on June 27 (Ringler) as were 5 at Hart - Miller on June 14 (Ringler + ). Another Black-belly at the latter site on July 31 (Blom) was a fall migrant. Late Semipalmated Plovers on the Eastern Shore were 4 at Hurlock on June 7 and 1 at Ocean City on June 21 (Ringler). The summer extremities of the Semipalmated Plover migration were noted at Hart - Miller with 1 on June 14 and 5 on July 19 (Ringler + ). The fall flock of Semis at Blackwater had built up to 19 on July 25 (Davidson, Wierenga). Unusual on the flats in Ocean City was a Piping Plover on June 6 and 13 (Ringler). High counts of gathering Killdeer were 34 at Tanyard on June 30 (Engle), 108 at North Branch on July 5 (Twigg), 105 at Blackwater on July 25 (Davidson, Wierenga) and 100 near Parsonsburg, Wicomico County on July 30 (M. O'Brien).

*Oystercatchers, Stilts, and Avocets.* A large downy young American Oystercatcher was at Ocean City on June 6 and a three-fourths grown young bird was at another location there on June 13 (Ringler). Wierenga found a nest of Black-necked Stilts, the first such for the state, at Deal Island WMA this summer and the O'Briens observed a pair with 1 young there on June 28. Early fall American Avocets were 1 flying up the Potomac near National Airport on July 2 (Czaplak), 2 at Loch Raven on July 3 (Wheeler) and 1 at Hart - Miller on July 19 (Ringler + ).

*Tringine Sandpipers.* Dyke found 7 Greater Yellowlegs on Monie Bay on June 2 for the last spring migrants while 1 at Hart - Miller on June 14 was between migrations and 3 there on June 28 were probably southbound (Ringler + ). On June 27 the 3 Greater at Blackwater and 1 at Hurlock (Ringler) were also likely fall migrants, as was 1 at Rock Hall on July 7 (J. Gruber) and 1 on Monie Bay on July 12 (Dyke). The first southbound Lesser Yellowlegs were 1 at Ocean City and 1 at Denton on June 27 (Ringler) and 4 at Hart - Miller on June 28 (Wierenga, Ringler) while the high counts for this early part of fall migration were 185 at Hart - Miller on July 31 (Blom) and 100 at Blackwater on July 18 (Ringler, Wierenga). The first Solitary Sandpipers

reported were 1 at Liberty Reservoir, Carroll County on July 12 (Ringler) and 3 at Blackwater on July 18 (Ringler, Wierenga). Willets outside of known nesting areas were 2 at Kent Narrows on June 4 and 1 there on June 15 (Ricciardi, Mumford, Beaton), 1 at Swan Creek on July 10 (J. Gruber), 1 flying north at North Beach on July 25 (Stasz) and 1 at Hart - Miller on July 31 (Blom). On June 6 at Ocean City there was a Willet nest with 4 eggs at 94th Street and 2 small downy young at 120th Street (Ringler). The first migrant Spotted Sandpiper was reported in DC on July 5 (Czaplak); 2 large downy young at Hart - Miller on July 19 (Ringler + ) provided evidence of continued nesting there.

*Curlews and Turnstones.* Migrant Upland Sandpipers were seen on the Eastern Shore only with 3 at the Easton Airport on July 16 (Wierenga, Ringler), 1 in Queen Annes County on July 23 (Rittenhouse) and 1 at Blackwater on July 30 (M. O'Brien). The only Whimbrels reported were 1 at Swan Point on July 15 (J. Gruber) and 49 distributed between Ocean City and North Assateague on July 25 (M. O'Brien, Gough). A superlative count for the bay of 100 Ruddy Turnstones was seen at Bennett's Point, Queen Annes County on June 1 (Ricciardi, Mumford, Beaton); other late spring migrants were 28 at Ocean City on June 13 with 3 there on June 21 and 9 on June 27 (Ringler) and 2 at Hart - Miller on June 14 (Ringler + ). The first turnstones of the fall migration were 4 at Ocean City and 3 at Hurlock on July 26 (Ringler) and 1 at Hart - Miller on July 31 (Blom).

*Calidridine Sandpipers.* The spring migration of Red Knots was notably late with 1 at Hart - Miller on June 14 (Ringler + ) and 34 at Ocean City on June 13 and 27 there on June 27 (Ringler); fall birds were noted on July 25 with 20 at Ocean City (M. O'Brien, Gough) and 6 at Cove Point (Stasz). A late Sanderling was a rare find in western Maryland at North Branch on June 12 (Paulus) while other late migrants were 1 at Ocean City on June 13 (Ringler) and 3 at Hart - Miller on June 14 (Ringler + ). On July 26 the numbers of Sanderlings at Ocean City had built to 200 (Ringler) and Blom found 2 migrants at Hart - Miller on July 31. Spring migration of Semipalmated Sandpipers appeared to continue throughout the month of June and overlapped the fall migration to make the dividing line between the two indistinguishable. At Hurlock there were 67 Semis on June 7 and 7 on the 14th (Ringler). At North Branch there were 30 on June 12 and 2 on the 16th (Paulus). At Ocean City there were 500 on June 13, 100 on the 21st and 30 on the 27th (Ringler). At Hart - Miller there were 175 Semis on June 14 and 1 on the 28th (Ringler + ). Likely fall migrants at Hart - Miller were 2 Semis on July 3 (Ringler + ) and 135 on the 31st (Blom). Stasz saw 2 Semis at North Beach on July 1, the Grubers found 4 at Remington Farms on July 12 and there were 75 at Blackwater on July 25 (Davidson, Wierenga). Fall migration of Semipalmated Sandpipers typically begins at the end of June and the first of July.

July reports of Western Sandpipers included 2 at Hart - Miller on the 3rd (Ringler + ), 6 at Hurlock on the 16th (Wierenga, Ringler) and 50 at Blackwater on the 25th (Davidson, Wierenga). A Least Sandpiper at Hurlock on June 7 (Ringler) was exceptionally late for that species in spring. The first fall migrant Least was 6 at Hart - Miller on June 28 (Ringler + ), building to 450 on July 31 (Blom). In Dorchester County there were 70 Least at Hurlock on July 16 (Wierenga, Ringler) and 150 at Blackwater on July 25 (Davidson, Wierenga). The last of the spring White-rumped Sandpipers were 1 at North Branch through June 5 (Paulus), 1 at Hurlock on June 7 and 14 (Ringler) and 5 at Hart - Miller on June 14 and 3 there on July 3 (Ringler + ). The latter date may seem extraordinary for spring migration but the fall migration

of White-rumps typically begins in early August and it is more likely that these birds were non-breeding spring stragglers. The first June record of Pectoral Sandpiper in the state was an early fall migrant at Hurlock on June 27 (Ringler); more typical birds were 6 at Hart – Miller on July 19 (Ringler + ), 60 there on July 31 (Blom), and 50 at Blackwater on July 25 (Davidson, Wierenga). Late spring Dunlins were 1 at Ocean City on June 6 (Ringler) and 2 at Hart – Miller on June 14 (Ringler + ); 2 at the latter location on July 31 and into August (Blom) were probably non-breeding vagrants as the fall migration of Dunlin does not reach us until September. A Stilt Sandpiper at Ocean City on June 13 (Ringler) was the latest spring record for the state of a species that is rare in spring at any time. Fall Stilt Sandpipers included 1 at Blackwater on July 18 (Wierenga, Ringler), 3 there on the 25th (Davidson, Wierenga), 3 at Hart – Miller on July 19 (Ringler + ) and 1 at Lake Haven on July 26 (Ringler).

*Dowitchers, Woodcock, Phalaropes.* The last of the spring Short-billed Dowitchers were 14 at Ocean City on June 13, 12 there on June 21, and 9 on June 27 (Ringler); 16 were at Hart – Miller on June 14 and 7 were there on June 28 (Ringler + ). Another Short-bill at Hart – Miller on July 3 fits the pattern for fall migrants though in this unusual year it could have been going either way. Certain fall migrant Short-bills were 10 at Blackwater on July 18 (Wierenga, Ringler) and 41 there on July 25 (Davidson, Wierenga), 40 at Hart – Miller on July 19 (Ringler + ) and 80 there on July 31 (Blom), 1 at Cove Point on July 25 (Stasz) and 80 at Ocean City on July 26 (Ringler). An American Woodcock was flushed from the edge of a shopping center parking lot at 94th Street in Ocean City on June 6 and 13 (Ringler). Wilson's Phalaropes are rarely seen in the summer season but there was 1 at Ocean City on June 21 (Ringler), 1 at Hart – Miller on July 19 (Ringler + ) and 3 there on July 31 with 1 Red-necked Phalarope (Blom).



Fig. 1. Red-necked Phalaropes with Semipalmated Sandpipers at North Branch, Allegany County, June 1, 1987. Photo by Jim Paulus.

*Gulls.* Czaplak first noted the dispersal of Laughing Gulls in DC with 2 there on July 7. Numbers of Laughers built to 200 at Rock Hall on July 24 (J. Gruber) and 1800 at Hart – Miller on July 31 (Blom). An immature Franklin's Gull was seen at Sandy Point from June 19 through July 1 (M. O'Brien + ). A Bonaparte's Gull summered at Hart – Miller (Ringler + ). Czaplak's tallies of Ring-billed Gulls in DC show the change from summering non-breeders to migrants returning from the Great Lakes. He estimated 60, mostly sub-adults, on June 6 and 150, mostly adults, on July 6 with 1



**Herring Gull** on the latter date also. This coincides closely with the first inland Ring-bills of the season, 3 at Lake Elkhorn on July 5 (Hill). Stasz observed his first juvenile Ring-bill at North Beach on July 21. Other flocks of Ring-bills included 110 at Tower Gardens on July 29 (Ricciardi) and an overwhelming 9000 at Hart – Miller on July 31 (Blom). The largest non-breeding and/or post-breeding flock of Great Black-backed Gulls ever seen in the state was an estimated 800 at Hart – Miller on July 19 and later (Ringler + ).

**Terns, Skimmers.** The only Gull-billed Tern reported was 1 at Ocean City on June 13 (Ringler). As usual in recent years there were Caspian Terns throughout the summer though they do not breed in the state. Stasz saw 1 at North Beach on June 5, and on July 11 observed an adult with a juvenile there. Nistico saw a Caspian flying over the Wilson Bridge in the Prince Georges County part of the Potomac River on June 16, 2 were in DC on June 24 (Czaplak), 6 at Swan Creek on July 10 and 15 at Rock Hall on July 24 (both J. Gruber) and 410 at Hart – Miller, their usual stronghold, on July 31 (Blom). The buildup of Royal Terns at Ocean City was 6 on June 6, 20 on June 13, 30 on June 21, 57 on June 27 and 70 on July 26 (Ringler). Royals do not presently nest in the state; however, Stasz saw a juvenile at North Beach on July 14. A pair of copulating Sandwich Terns was observed at Ocean City on both June 13 and 21, with a third bird present on the latter date (Ringler). Michael O'Brien and Gough observed an adult Sandwich Tern with a juvenile at North Assateague and another juvenile at Ocean City on July 25. Sandwich Terns are now seen almost annually at Ocean City or in the lower bay; however, they do not nest in the state. The post-breeding buildup of Forster's Terns at Hart – Miller went from 6 on July 3 to 400 on July 19 (Ringler + ) to 1100 on July 31 (Blom). Other interesting reports of Forster's Terns were 24 at Denton on July 6 (Nuttall), 4 in DC on July 6 and 15 on July 27 (Czaplak), 76 at Swan Creek on July 10 (J. Gruber), 55 at Tower Gardens on July 23 (Ricciardi), 150 at Rock Hall on July 24 (J. Gruber) and 26 at Choptank on July 26 (Ringler). A downy young Least Tern was in a colony at 120th Street in Ocean City on June 13 (Ringler). Other nesting reports of Least Terns were 2 adults with 2 young on the roof of the Kennedy Center in DC from June 21 through July 11 and 25-30 on the roof of Sandy Springs Elementary School in Cambridge on June 27 (both Czaplak). Other sightings of Least Terns, unrelated to nesting, were 2 at Hog Island Wharf, Caroline County on June 14 (Engle), 3 at Choptank on June 27 (Ringler) and 14 at Blackwater on July 30 (M. O'Brien). The only reports of Black Terns were single birds at Ocean City on June 21 (Ringler), Hart – Miller on July 3 (Ringler + ), at Tar Bay on July 7 (Mackiernan) and in Chesapeake Bay about 2 miles west of Tolchester on July 14 (J. Gruber). Sightings of Black Skimmers in St. Marys County were 3 flying near Cedar Point on June 24 (Bryan) and 8 flying into Goose Creek on June 25 (Bryan, Jason Walker). Skimmers do not nest on the western shore but nearby on the Eastern Shore islands.

**Cuckoos, Swifts, Flycatchers.** Migrating Black-billed Cuckoos were 1 near Hollywood on June 6 (Davidson), 4 near Whaleyville on June 6 and 1 in Wicomico County near Pittsville on June 7 (both Ringler). A migrant Yellow-billed Cuckoo was near Baltimore on June 8 in an area where the species does not nest (Ringler). Jo Solem found a nest with young of a Chimney Swift in a concession building at Centennial Park in Columbia on July 6. Late spring migrants included 2 Eastern Wood-Pewees in Ocean City on June 6 (Ringler), a Willow Flycatcher on Gibson Island on June 5 (Ricciardi) and another Willow near Whaleyville on June 6 (Ringler). However, the Willow Flycatcher that Droege heard at Blackwater on June 25 may have been nesting.

*Swallows, Ravens.* Single Tree Swallows at familiar places on unusual dates were at Denton on June 12 (Nuttle) and Hart – Miller on June 14 (Ringler + ). The first migrant Northern Rough-winged Swallows were 2 at Easton on June 27 (Ringler) and numbers at Rock Hall had built to 75 on July 20 (J. Gruber). Kirkwood noted nesting Bank Swallows in Harford County with 50 nests at the Arundel Quarry colony and 40 nests on Tydings Island at Havre de Grace this summer. Migrant Bank Swallows were at Easton and Denton on June 27 (Ringler). Other migrant flocks of Bank Swallows were 75 at Fairlee on July 19 (Grubers), 700 at Hurlock on July 26 (Ringler and M. O'Brien, these being independent estimates), 150 at Sandy Point on July 27 and 2000 over fields north of Easton on July 28 (both M. O'Brien). Jim Gruber estimated 60 Barn Swallows at Rock Hall on July 20. Kiddy saw 2 Northern Ravens at The Narrows in Cumberland on June 26.

*Thrush, Shrikes, Vireos.* A Gray-cheeked Thrush heard near Brandywine, Prince Georges County on June 3 (M. O'Brien) was a late spring migrant. A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes with 1 fledged young and another young bird in the nest were at Big Spring, Washington County on June 18 (Davidson). Kiddy observed a Solitary Vireo nest with 5 young at Dan's Mountain State Park on June 20.

*Warblers.* A female Northern Parula in Ocean City on June 13 (Ringler) was probably a late migrant. The first recent nest record of Pine Warbler in DC was a pair feeding young out of the nest on June 6 (Czaplak). A late migrant Blackpoll Warbler was heard near Whaleysville on June 6 (Ringler). A likely early fall migrant Black-and-white Warbler was banded at Tuckahoe State Park on July 17 (T. Gruber). The last of the migrating American Redstarts this spring were 3 sub-adult males in Ocean City on June 6 (Ringler), 1 near Hollywood on June 6 (Davidson) and 1 singing near Greensboro through June 11 (Reese). The Swainson's Warbler previously reported at Phoenix was seen through July 12 (Simon + ). A late spring Mourning Warbler was at Sewell Pond in Calvert County on June 5 (Stasz). A Canada Warbler which is difficult to attribute to either the spring or fall migration was seen near Patapsco Valley State Park in Baltimore County on July 3 (Solem, Farrell). Reese found 14 singing Yellow-breasted Chats on a 40-50 acre clear-cut lot on Deep Neck near Royal Oak, Talbot County on July 12, an impressive number for that area.

*Dickcissel, Sparrows.* Droege heard a Dickcissel singing near Melitota in Kent County on June 15. Michael O'Brien found a singing Dickcissel near Brunswick in Frederick County on June 23. A silent male Dickcissel was at Cold Saturday, Carroll County on July 12 (Ringler). Rare for the Lower Eastern Shore, a Vesper Sparrow was singing near Hebron, Wicomico County on June 14-21 (Ringler). The only reports of Henslow's Sparrows away from Elliott were 1 at Cumberland on June 10 (Twigg) and 1 singing on Negro Mountain near Accident on July 12 (M. O'Brien). Droege estimated between 15 and 30 pairs of Swamp Sparrows breeding at Eastern Neck this summer. A singing White-throated Sparrow near Pelot Sanctuary northeast of Greensboro on June 23 (Reese) was unusual though the species is found almost annually summering in the state outside its limited breeding range in Garrett County.

*Bobolink, Cardueline Finches.* A Bobolink in Harford County on June 9 (Kirkwood) was suspiciously late for a spring migrant; 3 at Tuckahoe State Park on July 18 (Rittenhouse) and 1 near Federalsburg on July 29 (M. O'Brien) were early fall migrants. A Pine Siskin appeared on July 23 at Nistico's house in Bryans Road, Charles County where none had been seen since the middle of May. This suggests



that some may have bred in the area. Pauline Hancock had a female Evening Grosbeak visit her feeder in Indian Head, Charles County on June 27-28 for the first mid-summer record in the state.

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. August 15, 1987

The 40th annual membership meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held on August 15, 1987, at Washington College, Chestertown. A quorum was present when President Anthony White called the meeting to order at 8:35 P.M.

President White expressed his appreciation to all who had contributed toward making his two terms in office pleasant and successful.

Before the evening's business commenced, the membership was treated to a VALUED SERVICE AWARDS ceremony, the awards having been created to be given in appreciation to members who have volunteered countless hours of service to the society. President White presented certificates and pins especially designed for the occasion to Martha Chestem, John Cullom, Anneke Davis, Helen Ford, Dorothy Mendinhall, and Larry Zeleny.

Not all of the above-mentioned were able to be at the meeting to receive their awards, but the honorees who were present were pleasantly surprised, as was President White, when he, too, was given the award by President-nominee Robert Ringler.

*Treasurer* - Emily Joyce. The year-end statement showed total financial assets of \$132,210. Auditing Committee Chairman Rodney Jones reported that the books had been examined and found to be in good order. The motion by Mr. Malcolm was seconded and passed, accepting the Treasurer's report, which will be published in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

*Past President* - Martha Chestem. This year's state stamp, a bluebird designed by artist John Taylor, will be \$5.00.

*Committee Reports* - The chairmen's reports, summarized below, will be published in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

*Atlas* - John Cullom and Eirik Blom. With a current balance of \$3900, the project has operated in the black thanks to support from MOS and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. MOS chapters are being challenged by an anonymous benefactor to equal a \$5000 matching grant. The benefactor's contribution to the Atlas will be made at next year's conference.

At the end of this last season of field work, the Atlas project has amassed some 90,000 records, with an average of about 75 species for each block. It will be one of the most complete atlases done in either hemisphere.

The field work may be finished, but the job is not over. The publication of the Atlas in book form remains to be done. MOS will again be asked for help, both for volunteer workers and for funding for the publication.

*Bylaws* - Lee Meinersmann. The bylaws are "standing up" as written.

*Conservation* - Richard Dolesh reporting. Program Open Space has fared well in 1987 and is alive and healthy. Concerning the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Program, each county that borders on the Bay is submitting plans for Bay protection. MOS members should let county officials, state delegates and senators know that their support is needed.

*Conference* - Nowell Jones. Chairman Jones offered his thanks to the staff of Washington College, the members of Kent Chapter, and to all the volunteers whose hours of work helped make the meeting a success. There were approximately 195 registrants. The 1988 Conference has been scheduled for June 10-12 at Hood College in Frederick.

*Education* - James Cheevers. Because no Junior Achievement Award recipients were found during the year, chapter officials are urged to seek out young people whose science fair projects are worthy of recognition. The impressive new Speakers List has been mailed to all MOS chapters.

*Investments* - President White announced the recent death of Charles Buchanan and paid tribute to him and to his service to MOS as Investments Chairman, for which his advice and assistance has been particularly appreciated. Mr. Buchanan, who was 58, joined the organization in 1946 as a junior member, and remained active, making many contributions to the good of the Society.

*Library* - Joy Wheeler. Complete sets of *Maryland Birdlife* are not only being bound, but are also being put on microfilm, and will be available, along with a microfilm reader, at Cylburn. Reviews of three books, all written by MOS members, have been submitted for publication in *Maryland Birdlife*.

*Long Range Planning* - Martha Waugh reporting for Jo Solem. The committee continues to explore ways of utilizing the talents of the many fine birders in MOS in order to enhance the field birding skills of the membership.

*Publications* - Chan Robbins. Appreciation was offered to Rick Blom, Bob Ringler, Mark Hoffman, Joy Wheeler and all others who have helped with *Maryland Birdlife*. Four issues are now at the printer and will be mailed two at a time. A request was made for committee and chapter presidents' annual reports.

*Records* - These reports will appear in *Yellowthroat*.

*Research* - Margaret Jones. Two grants were awarded during the year. A high point of the Conference was the impressive poster display presented by three grant recipients who utilized sophisticated computer techniques to get their findings. Special efforts are under way to attract more grant applicants.

*Sanctuary* - Dorothy Mumford. Workdays at Carey Run and Irish Grove resulted in cleaner houses and yards, mowed fields, a new trail and needed repairs. Some new water pipes were installed at Irish Grove.

*Scholarship* - Mildred Gebhard. The three ornithology and three ecology scholarship winners were announced, along with the camps or workshops of their choice.

*Bluebird* - President White announced that the North American Bluebird Society has named MOS the recipient of the Lawrence Zeleny award. The presentation, which will be accepted by new president Robert Ringler, will be made at the annual NABS meeting, September 18-20 at the 4-H Center in Chevy Chase.

*Nominating* - Cameron Lewis. Nominated to serve as officers for the coming year: President - Robert Ringler; Vice President - Richard J. Dolesh; Treasurer - Emily Joyce; Secretary - Patricia Moore. There were no nominations from the floor. Following a motion by Nowell Jones, duly seconded and passed, nominations were closed and the slate declared unanimously elected.

At 9:35 Mr. Mason's motion for adjournment was received, seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
PATRICIA J. MOORE  
Secretary

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

### ALLEGANY CHAPTER

Our initial meeting of the 1986-87 year began with our annual picnic at Carey Run. During September, we had two field trips. One was preceded by a workshop on shorebirds by Bob Ringler. The following day, Bob took a group on a field trip to observe shorebirds. They were very cooperative in that we spotted two rare visitors to Western Maryland: Baird's and Western Sandpipers. We also had other shorebirds on this trip. The other field trip in September was to Dolly Sods, West Virginia, where we watched the Brooks Bird Club band fall migrants and also saw some hawk migration.

Also, during September, Vice President Mark Weatherholt coordinated the Club's participation in the Hunting and Fishing Day at the Country Club Mall. Mark was assisted by other members of the Club.

In October, we had a trip to Dan's Rock, led by Ray Kiddy. This was also the month in which we had our annual dinner. Claudia Wilds of Washington, D.C., was our guest speaker.

In November, we had one field trip to Shawnee Park, Pa., for waterfowl. Our guest speaker for our November meeting was Dr. Richard Johnson, a member of our Club, who gave a slide presentation on birds from his own excellent collection.

The highlight of December, was our Christmas Bird Count. John Willetts was the compiler and we had a total species count of 69.

During January 1987, our Club participated in the first Winter Bird Count. Although it was cold, very windy and with 100% ground cover, we had good participation and a total species count of 67.

Tom Mathews, District Wildlife Manager of Allegany County, presented a program on the status of the Wild Turkey in Maryland for the February meeting. In March Ron Schad presented a slide program on wildlife. We also had election of officers with Teresa Simons, President; Roy Brown, Vice President; Mary Minnick, Secretary; Charlotte Folk, Treasurer.

In April, we had a slide presentation by John Willetts and Bill Devlin on "Trekking the Pacific Northwest." Our field trip this month was to Rocky Gap and local ponds. Also, in April we assisted the State Organization in cleanup day at Carey Run.

On May 2, 1987, the Allegany County Chapter participated in the annual May Bird Count. We had a record count this year of 152 species.

Our Chapter will be participating in the final year of the Atlas Project by setting aside two days for blockbusting in June.

*Teresa Simons, President*

## ANNE ARUNDEL CHAPTER

This was a very active and rewarding year for the Anne Arundel Bird Club. An excellent agenda of field trips took us to such diverse habitats as three national wildlife refuges, two MOS sanctuaries, South River by boat and many birding hotspots both local and farther afield. Our monthly meetings were highlighted by interesting speakers on a variety of subjects. Bill Oberman taught us to identify sparrows and finches, and Mark Hoffman spoke of kestrel studies in Florida. Jane Zuke inspired us with her talk on bird rehabilitation. We journeyed to "The Garden of Eden" with Wayne Klockner, to Churchill with Lola Oberman, to Appledore Island with David Holmes, and the Pine Barrens with Jim Stasz. Our annual wildlife program featured John Barber on "The Peregrine Falcon," and earned a tidy sum for the MOS Sanctuary and Scholarship Funds. Fall and spring picnics rounded out our program year.

MOS activities also commanded our attention. We are proud that in addition to our Directors, several of our members serve on the state Board—Emily Joyce as MOS Treasurer, Dotty Mumford as Sanctuary Chairman and Jim Cheevers as Education Chairman. The Christmas Count was well supported, as evidenced by the more than fifty birders who attended the countdown party at the home of Pat and Dick Chiles. The May Count also enjoyed good participation. Under the superb leadership of Jim Cheevers, Anne Arundel members have turned out in force for the Atlas, resulting in excellent County-wide coverage. This year our chapter assumed responsibility for mailing the MOS newsletter, the *Yellowthroat*. Joanne Hollis has been helping the Fords with this project.

Our members have been active in the community. In response to requests from the Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning, Jim Cheevers, Dotty Mumford,

Sue Ricciardi, Chris Beaton and Emily Joyce have been carrying on bird surveys on lands slated for possible development, gathering data for use in environmental impact statements. Dotty, Sue and Chris have also been working at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, canvassing the birdlife, leading field trips, and conducting workshops. Club members have also led field trips for the public at Sandy Point State Park and have lectured on birdlife to a number of civic groups.

Two noteworthy awards also highlighted our season. We granted honorary life memberships to Ed and Gladys Barry, two charter members dating from the "Avid Avists" who originated our club. We were honored to learn that Jane Story had been selected to receive a Helen Miller Scholarship from the MOS.

I'd like to express my appreciation to all whose support contributed toward making this past season so successful, especially my fellow officers, field trip leaders, hosts and hostesses at our social events, and Christmas and May Count coordinators. Thank you one and all.

*Helen Ford, President*

## CAROLINE COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The Caroline Chapter of MOS had a busy and varied year in 1986-87. We had many informative speakers, ranging in interest from Indian Artifacts through Birding in England and a photographic visit to the Pine Barrens of New Jersey. Dr. Trever's annual visit to us brought an exciting talk, with slides, on Patagonia. Our field trips went to Bombay Hook to see the Snowy Owl, to Chincoteague to see a variety of shorebirds and ended with a visit to our nearby Tuckahoe State Park. This park, by the way, has a beautiful set of trails through the arboretum and is recommended to all chapters.

Our bluebird project continues to grow. We now have 300 boxes up in Caroline County and bluebirds are everywhere. Our Christmas count reported nearly 300 bluebirds, which made us all very happy. The club received a lovely woodcarving of a bluebird, done by Jim Carlisle of Winston Salem, N.C., and donated by an anonymous member; this was presented to the County Commissioners. The bluebird has been selected as the county bird and this carving will be on display in our Court House for all to see.

We will close our year with a slide presentation by some of our members who visited Florida and Colorado. It might be noted in closing that our membership showed a 13% increase this year.

*Mariana Nuttle, President*

## FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

Eight regular monthly meetings were held in addition to the annual Christmas dinner. Attendance ranged from 35 to 54, with an average of 44. Attendance at the dinner was 59, and membership reached 74. Our speakers were James Voigt, "50 years of Conservation, Catocin Mountain Park"; Bill Murphy, "Birds of Trinidad

and Tobago"; Doris Walter, "Audubon Ecology Camp, Hog Island, Maine"; Bob Ringler, "The MOS, Forty Years and Moving"; Harold Morrin, "Birds of Australia"; Michael Braun, "Birding among the Mayan Ruins in Mexico"; "Piney Run Park"; Elise Thrasher, "Some U.S. and Canadian National Parks"; and Bob Hoffman, "Nature—the Four Seasons."

Thirteen field trips were held. The destinations included Lilypons, Gambrill Park, Adventure, Washington Monument State Park, C & O Canal, Piney Run Park, and Little Bennett Park. Average attendance on the 13 trips was 10-12. Mike Welch compiled the results of the Catoctin Mountain Christmas Bird Count, and Marilyn Yost handled the May Count.

The annual election was held at the regular May meeting. All officers were reelected, except that Mike Welch will serve as Treasurer for 1987-88. The membership adopted a new set of Bylaws, since the former Bylaws had been irretrievably lost.

*Melvin D. Bennett, President*

## HARFORD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The Harford County Bird Club had another successful year, with four dinner meetings, a picnic, 20 field trips, and a warbler walk competition. We also set new Harford County records for both the Christmas Count and the Statewide Bird Count in May.

Our fall picnic was held at Conowingo Dam. The Bald Eagles and Ospreys did not disappoint us; neither did the confusing fall warblers. An extraordinary 62 members indulged in the festivities.

Our field trip schedule was extensive. We visited Patuxent River Park, Susquehanna State Park, Bombay Hook Refuge, Eastern Neck Refuge, Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Upper Deer Creek area, Newark Farms, Muddy Run area, Palmer State Park, Harford Glen, Rocks State Park, and the Broad Creek Boy Scout Camp.

The club presented distinguished speakers at our dinner meetings. The November meeting featured Dennis and Jean Kirkwood, Les Eastman, and Spike Updegrove, who related their experiences at the American Birding Association's convention in Tucson, Arizona. Two hundred slides were presented; and yes, they saw the Buff-collared Nightjar. Craig Sholley, Curator of Education at the Baltimore Zoo, had us mesmerized with his "Life with the Mountain Gorilla" presentation at our winter meeting.

In March we were delighted with Claudia Wilds' "Birds of the Falkland Islands." And the year concluded with Jerry Newman of the American Bluebird Society presenting a slide show featuring the cavity nesters of Maryland.

Les Eastman was the winner of our 2nd Annual Warbler Walk competition; he just edged June Vaughn by one Black-throated Blue Warbler in intense competition. Les will receive free MOS membership for one year. Special thanks to the less suc-



successful leaders: Gail Mundis, Dennis Kirkwood, Todd Holden, Thomas Congersky, Randy Robertson, John Wortman, and Bill Pfingsten.

The Christmas Count set new records in many categories, three of which deserve special mention: greatest number of species (88) and individual birds (199,284), and of participants (41). Our Spring Count also set a species record (132).

The dedication and effectiveness of the following officers contributed to the success of our year: William McIntosh, Vice President; Barbara Bilsborough, Recording Secretary; Pat Kastama, Treasurer; Joyce Sherman and Sarah Standiford, Corresponding Secretaries; William Russell, Pat Fetchero, and Barclay Tucker, Trustees.

*Kermit L. Updegrove, Jr., President*

## JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

The Jug Bay Bird Club had a major transition in September when our founding president and editor both moved to New York. However, we continue with informative meetings and at least one field trip every month. We have six field trips scheduled for May 1987.

Our accomplishments this year include 5 bluebird trails (110 nestlings banded in 1986), 1 kestrel trail and 1 barn-owl trail. To date kestrel and barn-owl boxes are unsuccessful. Jug Bay Bird Club T-shirts featuring the Sora were a big hit even though they did not arrive in time for the Christmas Bird Count. Members also participated in the May Count and led bird and wildflower walks for Patuxent River Discovery Day. Monthly meeting time was moved to 7:00 p.m. to allow more people to join us. Membership continues at about 45 with about half attending most meetings. Some always plan to arrive early and bird Jug Bay before the meetings.

*Jean Tierney, President*

## KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent County Chapter had a good year. Our goals for the year were: 1. increase membership, 2. increase local visibility, 3. provide education about birds and habitat preservation both to members and the general public, 4. become more active in conservation programs, 5. increase the participation of members, 6. contribute to MOS research programs: Breeding Bird Atlas, 7. raise funds, 8. develop special projects: bluebird trail, 9. plan for hosting the annual meeting.

We made some progress in all areas, although not always as much as we had hoped. Our membership increased substantially (about 15%) to 85, thanks to more publicity, better organization, and a dedicated treasurer. We made progress on the Atlas project. The Damsite Banding Station banded 1631 individuals of 84 species in Fall, 1986. The planning for the annual meeting is progressing on schedule. Attendance at meetings is about normal for this chapter, and we had excellent programs. We held one training session on song recognition which was sparsely attended and two field trips: one cold morning canoe trip (8 members) and one all-day

trip to Tuckahoe State Park, which attracted 14 members. Special publicity efforts included three presentations on the bluebird trail: a radio interview, a newspaper article with picture, and an article in a local magazine; a revision of the bird check-list for Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge was done by two of our members with credit given to MOS. We held a yard sale that increased our working funds. We have several other projects underway. We voted to establish The Gibson-Mendinhall Ornithological Research Trust Fund for the purpose of supporting ornithological research in Kent County. We are supporting the banding station at Damsite.

We sent a questionnaire to members to find out what kinds of programs and activities they prefer. The response rate was low (as could be expected), but of those responding, most people prefer programs on local birds, habitats, and behavior; want training in recognition of bird calls and songs; and prefer local, weekday trips in Fall and Spring. Since this is what we have done in the past, changing the type of program would probably not increase participation. We are planning a major effort to attract young members: we have voted funds for prizes for a poster contest at the high school, the poster to illustrate one of the major MOS goals. We expect this to require several years of consistent effort.

We need greater effort in several areas: conservation education and action, both local and statewide; training of assistants for the banding station; training to develop more intermediate and advanced birders; involvement of youngsters in birding.

*Margaret Hubbard Jones, President*

## PATUXENT CHAPTER

The Patuxent Chapter began its program year with a bird carving display by member Ernie Blanks and a slide presentation by a member of the British Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Other programs were on Brazil, Pt. Pelee, and backyard birding on the Shores of the Chesapeake. Club members have been active in recycling aluminum and newspapers. Field trips to a banding station at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and to Washington Monument State Park for the Hawk watch were held.

*Bill Murphy, President*

## TALBOT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Talbot County Chapter of the MOS began the fall season in August with informal Sunday morning birdwalks led by Jan Reese and a special visit to Kingston Landing for birds and flowers. On August 23rd 25 members attended the Third Annual Crab Feast.

During September and October the Sunday morning walks continued with breakfast at a member's home afterwards. The average attendance was 15. In November we returned to the informal format for the walks.

Regular monthly meetings were held the third Wednesday from September through May (except December) with a business meeting, various speakers and an

average attendance of 26. Before the September meeting we sold 25 lb. bags of black oil sunflower seeds.

On Oct. 3-5 Harry Armistead led six members on a field trip to Cape Charles and Kiptopeke to see shorebirds and the bird banding operations. On Nov. 7-9 Dick Kleen took a group of 6 to Cape Hatteras. Other scheduled field trips during the winter had to be cancelled because of weather or lack of interest.

On Nov. 14-16 we displayed the MOS exhibit at the Easton Waterfowl Festival. Last year the Waterfowl Festival Appropriations Committee gave us a grant of \$1000 which we used to bring Conservation Education Programs to the Talbot County Schools. There were two illustrated lectures, one in October and one in March, each presented in the morning in one Middle School and in the afternoon in a different Middle School in the County. This year the Festival Committee has given us \$2000 which will enable us to provide four such programs (8 showings) in the 1987-1988 school year.

The Christmas Count had good participation and a good attendance at the potluck supper afterward. The number of species of birds was below the previous year both for the Christmas Count and for the May Count. The April and May Sunday morning birdwalks with breakfast afterward averaged about 15 members each week.

On May 16 the chapter had a table at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Spring Festival which gave us another opportunity to publicize the MOS and our chapter. We are presently preparing a permanent exhibit for use on these occasions. It should be ready by next November for the 1987 Waterfowl Festival. The additional publicity has gained us many new members and we now have a record roster of 123.

*Virginia S. Graebert, President*

## WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

The Washington County Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday from September through April with the exception of December. Our meeting place is at the Board of Education headquarters on Commonwealth Avenue in Hagerstown and our meetings start at 7:30 p.m. We also meet on the fourth Sunday of June, July and August for a potluck meal.

We participated in the Christmas Count on December 27, 1986. The 33 people recorded 800,183 birds of 76 species. The high numbers of individuals was due to a large blackbird roost on the edge of town and a crow roost in town. We also participated in the May Count.

Some of our members have been active with the spring and fall hawk watch at Washington Monument at Boonsboro. This spring the osprey count is way up and ten eagles were sighted.

Our programs during the fall and winter presented a wide variety of subjects: Tropical Deforestation, Bird Banding, Birds of Kenya, Wildlife of Patagonia, Bird Migration, Bird Identification, and a film titled "Silver Wires and Golden Wings."

We schedule one or two field trips a month. Our turnout for trips has not been very good, but those that have come have enjoyed themselves.

A number of our members maintain bluebird trails that have been very productive. The newest trail is along Interstate 70 between Hagerstown and Clear Spring.

Six members travelled to Carey Run on April 25 to help with the work day. In spite of a threat of rain in the morning we had a most enjoyable day helping to get the sanctuary trails and house ready for use this spring and summer.

To raise money for the Sanctuary Fund, members bring old newspapers on meeting nights so we can recycle them. We gave \$100 to the Sanctuary Fund. We also get sunflower seeds direct from the grower and resell them to raise money. This past year we donated \$300 to the Nature Conservancy and \$100 to Save the Bay.

This past year we continued to work on the Atlas. This has been an interesting and learning experience for many of us.

In May we have a weekend of birding at the Washington County Outdoor School facilities at Clear Spring. This is open to anybody who would like to attend. In 1986 we had 27 people stay overnight and several other people join us for Saturday or Sunday. There were 105 species of birds seen during the weekend.

*Robert A. Keedy, President*

## WICOMICO BIRD CLUB

The Wicomico Bird Club continued to meet on the 4th Monday of the month, September through May. Because of the growth of the club, approximately 75 members, and increased attendance at the meetings, a new meeting room will be necessary for next year.

As is usual, our programs presented a mixture of outside speakers and club members. A forester from the local power company gave a slide program on maintaining natural habitat, Robin Clifford of the Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage, gave suggestions for the creation of diverse habitats at Irish Grove, John Dennis spoke on the intoxication of birds, Dr. William Standaert presented a show on bird anatomy, Claudia Wilds was our guest speaker at our annual dinner and gave a slide show on Antarctica, and Bob Ringler gave a talk and slide show on rare birds of Maryland.

Field trips included the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, Deal Island, Chincoteague, Ocean City, and the Pocomoke Swamp. A bird seed sale was held in October as our only fund raiser. Irish Grove was again maintained by the club and a new reservation form was printed. By-laws for the chapter were drawn up and passed. A junior member, Colin McAllister, won a blue ribbon at a Maryland Federated Garden Club District Show with a display on the annual Christmas Count. An article on the local Christmas Count was in the area paper and featured member Charles Vaughn. Our Atlas project proceeded with new members still joining. A lending library was instituted. Our attempt at our own Big Day was such a success that it will be repeated annually. We look forward to another year of increased membership, interesting meetings and good birding.

*Carol Broderick, President*

# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. FINANCIAL REPORT

May 1, 1986 through April 30, 1987

Budget Item	Budget Amount		To Date
OPERATING FUND			
From 1985/1986			\$46,543.75
Income:			
Dues	\$10,000.00	\$4,380.00	
From Sanc. Endow. Fund	396.00	396.00	
Convention Income — 1986	1,200.00	- 3,864.51	
Convention Income — 1987			
Interest Income — pooled funds	1,440.00		
Interest — Investments	1,025.00	510.00	
Publications	75.00	325.05	
Shared Mail Permit	25.00	0.00	
General Contributions		0.00	
Total Income	14,161.00		1,746.54
Income + Balance			48,290.29
Expenses:			
Publication Committee			
MD Birdlife			
Printing	5,200.00	2,714.04	
Postage	620.00	368.56	
Supplies & Misc.	75.00		
Yellowthroat			
Printing	1,950.00	771.74	
Postage	825.00	193.85	
Supplies & Misc.	80.00		
Total Publications	8,750.00		4,048.19
Admin. & Office Expenses			
Exec. Secretary Stipend	2,400.00	400.00	
Postage	250.00	110.11	
Bulk Mailing Permits	80.00	100.00	
Bulk Mailing	280.00	0.00	
Membership List Maint.	500.00	283.32	
Printing & Duplication	350.00	0.00	
Office Supplies, Misc.	530.00	830.92	
Total Office Expense	4,390.00		1,724.35
Atlas Committee	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Convention Committee — 1987	1,200.00	0.00	
Eagle Committee	565.00	0.00	
Education Committee	100.00	0.00	
Library Committee	50.00	0.00	
Records Committee	100.00	0.00	

Research Committee	1,025.00	0.00
Affiliations & Memberships	175.00	110.00
Contingencies	200.00	0.00
Total Committees, etc.	4,415.00	1,110.00
Total Operating Expenses	17,555.00	6,882.54
Current Value, Operating Fund		41,407.75

## SANCTUARY FUND

Balance, April 30, 1986 \$27,472.70

## Income:

Contributions	\$1,200.00	\$464.25
From Sanct. Endow. Fund	2,184.00	425.68
Interest — Pooled Funds	2,620.00	0.00
Sale, Sanctuary Signs	150.00	58.00
Use of Sanctuaries	1,000.00	1,064.00
Total Income, Sanctuary	7,154.00	2,011.93
Total Income + Balance		29,484.63

## Expenses:

## Carey Run:

General Maintenance	2,460.00	1,656.63
Utilities (electricity)	250.00	131.52
Fire Insurance	130.00	129.00
Incidentals	200.00	185.73
Total — Carey Run	3,040.00	2,102.88

## Irish Grove:

General Maintenance	5,750.00	4,089.00
Utilities (elec. & phone)	300.00	181.21
Fuel (Kerosene & Propane)	500.00	94.62
Taxes	1,100.00	1,028.66
Fire Insurance	350.00	346.00
Contrib. Marion FD	50.00	0.00
Incidentals	200.00	0.00
Total Irish Grove	8,250.00	5,739.49

## tum Sudan:

General Maintenance	400.00	254.50
Fire Insurance	490.00	0.00
Incidentals	200.00	0.00
Total tum Sudan	1,090.00	254.50

## Mill Creek

	200.00	0.00
General Liability	850.00	0.00
General Contingency	1,000.00	0.00
Total Sanctuary Expenses	14,430.00	8,096.87

Current Sanctuary Fund

21,387.76



## SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance, April 30, 1986		\$52,932.09
Income:		
Life Memberships	\$200.00	\$0.00
Interest — Investments	2,000.00	821.68
Interest — Pooled Funds	580.00	0.00
Total Income	2,780.00	821.68
Expenses:		
Transfer: Op. Fund (Life Members)	396.00	396.00
Transfer: Sanctuary Fund	2,184.00	425.68
Total Expenses	2,580.00	821.68
Current Endowment Fund		52,932.09

## ATLAS PROGRAM

	Budget Amount	To Date	
Balance, April 30, 1986			\$2,378.79
Income:			
Contributions	\$3,050.00	\$554.00	
Transfer, Operating Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Convention — Raffle and Auction	1,100.00	1,700.08	
Total Income	5,150.00		3,254.08
Expenses:			
Travel	1,200.00	76.80	
Telephone	1,200.00	354.00	
Block Busting	500.00	73.60	
Newsletter	2,000.00	127.97	
Miscellaneous	250.00	24.44	
Total Expenses	5,150.00		656.81
Balance forward			4,976.06
*Interest and Dividends:			
Bank Accounts	438.15 (pooled)		
T. Rowe Price Reserve Fund	2,226.68 (pooled)		
Source Capital Fund	246.50 (endow.)		
Dayton Power & Electric	120.00 (scholar.)		
Ohio Bell	196.85 (endow.)		
General Telephone	193.75 (endow.)		
Niagra Mohawk Power	184.38 (endow.)		
Virginia Electric Power	172.50 (scholar.)		
McDermott, Inc.	510.00 (oper.)		
Potomac Electric	23.60 (pooled)		
Reserve Group	44.05 (pooled)		
Total Income — Interest and Investments	4,356.46		

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Balance — April 30, 1986		\$28,881.83
<b>Income:</b>		
Contributions — General	\$1,000.00	\$104.25
Contribution — World Nature	650.00	0.00
Jimmy Wood Scholarship	400.00	0.00
Interest — Investments	585.00	292.50
Interest — Pooled Funds	1,760.00	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,395.00</b>	<b>396.75</b>
<b>Balance + Income</b>		<b>29,278.58</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
2 Helen Miller Scholar.	1,300.00	0.00
C. Robbins Scholarship	450.00	0.00
E. Robbins Scholarship	450.00	0.00
Orville Crowder Scholar.	650.00	0.00
Jimmy Wood Scholar.	400.00	0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3,250.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Current Fund Value</b>		<b>29,278.58</b>

*Emily D. Joyce, Treasurer*

**REPORT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE**

I have examined the financial records of the Treasurer of The Maryland Ornithological Society for the year May 1, 1986 thru April 30, 1987 and the statements dated April 30, 1987.

In my opinion the records are in good order and accurately reflect the financial condition of the Society.

**Rodney B. Jones**  
Chairman, Auditing Committee

**ATLAS PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT**

The Atlas Project has operated in the black this year thanks to the MOS for providing the Coordinator's residence and for budget items, to members of the MOS for contributions and to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources for the Coordinator's salary and for computer facilities. The Atlas has a current balance of \$3,900 which includes \$1,700 from the raffle at last year's convention and \$1,200 from contributions to the Atlas Birdathon conducted by Rick Blom and others in New Jersey this spring.

The Atlas is in receipt of a \$5,000 matching grant from an anonymous benefactor challenging the chapters to raise an equal amount. The contribution will be made at next year's convention matching the amount the chapters raise in the interim.

*John Cullom, Chairman, Atlas Finance Committee*

## REPORT OF ATLAS COORDINATOR

We are at the end of the last season of field work on the Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project (MAP). At the beginning of this year we had approximately 82,000 records, an average of about 68 species for each of the 1200 or so blocks we are covering. Though we do not have this year's data in hand yet, we are confident that we will have over 90,000 records at the end of the project, an average of about 75 species for each block.

Significant work was done this year in Wicomico, Queen Annes, Kent, Charles, St. Mary's, Howard, and Garrett Counties. Pete Jeschke in particular did a lot of work in Garrett County, and a core of owlers, led by Sam Droege did a lot of nightwork in southern Maryland, the central Eastern Shore, and in the Frederick Valley. Other people who put in an exceptional amount of time helping us clean up in this final field season include Sue Ricciardi, Mike O'Brien, Bob Dixon, Bob Ringler and Dotty Mumford. At the local level many others pushed themselves harder than ever to get the job done. We owe them all a great debt of appreciation. There is no question that the involvement and concern of the birdwatchers of Maryland made this project a smashing success.

In an effort to improve the coverage of nocturnal marsh birds, the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Maryland funded three months of work by Hal Wierenga this summer. These data, collected mostly from Somerset and Dorchester counties will greatly increase the data base. They also aided financially in the Mini-route program under the direction of Danny Bystrak. We now have routes run for almost half the blocks in Maryland, giving us the first completely systematic study of abundance for any Atlas project.

The salary of the state coordinator continues to be provided by DNR. They also have provided the computer time, and seemingly endless printouts of data, quickly, efficiently, and without complaint. I must also note the extra work done by Mark Hoffman, providing new and more efficient programs and printouts for our use, and for coming up with computer-generated maps for each species. The time and effort he put in has made everyone's work easier.

None of this would have been possible without the strong support of the State, and the person who has shepherded the project for us there is Glenn Therres, who has taken over for Gary Taylor in the non-game program. Gary fought for and got the original funding for the project, and Glenn has been a staunch supporter, finding new monies when we were faced with problems like marsh birds and mini-routes. Without those two going to bat for us every year we never would have pulled this off.

The Atlas board will meet next month to begin work on the publication of the Atlas data in book form. We will be coming to the MOS for help again, looking for people who will be willing to do research on historical data, and to help us organize the information for the authors of the species accounts. There is still an opportunity for everyone to contribute to the project in a significant way. Our main task now is to find funding for the publication of the Atlas. DNR will be helping, but the bulk of the funding will have to come through MOS or monies it can raise specifically for the purpose.

Even though the data are not in yet, and in fact, some field work continues, we have a few interesting reports from this summer. Though we have accepted flying young as evidence of breeding for Black-necked Stilts at Deal Island, this year Hal Wierenga found an active nest there, a first for the State. Most of you have heard of the nesting of Bald Eagles at Gunpowder State Park, the first for that area in almost forty years. Another raptor of concern, the Peregrine Falcon, took up residence at a new location around Baltimore, on one of the main channel supports on the Key Bridge. Several more Dickcissels were found on the Eastern Shore, and a Swainson's Warbler was found in Garrett County, though nesting was not established, and it may have been an overshoot, as almost certainly was the one that spent all summer north of Baltimore.

In the first week in August the state coordinator, as well as Chandler Robbins, Glenn Therres, and Sam Droege, attended an international Atlas conference in San Francisco. We spent much time talking about the uses of Atlas data, and about the computer programs needed to process and use the information. In addition we attempted to standardize the Atlas codes, and to set guidelines for adequate coverage. It was an opportunity to learn much, share a little of our own experience, and to talk with Atlasers from every part of the continent. One thing we were pleased to learn, and which reflects the dedication and skill of Maryland's volunteers, is that we have one of the most complete Atlases ever done. Other aspects of the conference will be summarized in an article in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

*Rick Blom, Coordinator*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Once again feedback from the Chapters was very positive toward the MOS Speakers List. Most Chapters used it in developing their lecture programs for the year. Letters were sent to speaker alumni, prospective speakers, and Chapter Presidents in March to update the List for 1987-88. The new Speakers List contains the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of 32 volunteers offering over 100 lecture programs. In addition there are 15 organizations with speakers and films and a list of colleges in the state that have speakers bureaus. Since the MOS Convention will not be held until August, the Speakers List will be mailed to all Chapters in early June because some begin planning their following season at this time.

It was disappointing that no MOS Junior Achievement Awards were given during the year. Several science fairs were investigated, including the 32nd annual Baltimore Science Fair, but no appropriate projects were found. No Chapter recommendations were received. Hopefully this report will remind Chapter officials that this Award exists and that they will report in the future young persons deserving of this recognition to the Education Committee.

The MOS Long Range Planning Committee initiated a study of adult education within the Society and the chairman provided a report containing thoughts and suggestions towards this important consideration.

*James W. Cheevers, Chairman*

## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT, May 10, 1987

There have been no changes in investment holdings since March 15, 1987, when they were valued at \$130,286.74 at cost and earning \$8050.53 annually to yield 6.1% on cost, as reported to the Board April 4, 1987. Emphasis is still on high current income, but as I have expressed in several prior reports, I do feel that, in the interest of diversification and an offset to inflation, some portion of our portfolio should be represented by equity, even though yields aren't comparable to straight bonds.

It may be that convertible bonds and/or convertible preferreds would be the answer. The committee will continue to search out the most appropriate balance according to the Society's needs.

*Charles M. Buchanan, Chairman*

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE, 1986-1987

In the past year we made no visits to check the collections at Carey Run or Irish Grove. We trust they are being used frequently by sanctuary visitors and that they are in good condition. We also trust that no one has taken collections of old magazines to the sanctuaries. Acceptable would be current year Audubons, Birding, American Birds, or Birdwatchers' Digest, only.

At Cylburn we have lost a copy of *Falcons of the World* by Tom Cade. If anyone has an extra copy of this we'd appreciate the donation. Baltimore's famous falcons prompt many questions from visitors to our Bird Museum at Cylburn.

*Maryland Birdlife* is being put on Microfilm by Mobile Microfilm Co., Seven Mile Lane, Baltimore. They are charging the minimum price \$120 to do this with an additional \$9/reel for duplicate reels. A microfilm reader is available for \$100. We'll keep these on hand at Cylburn. Please call me (825-1204) to borrow any of it.

A full run of *Maryland Birdlife* is being sent to the Western Foundation for Vertebrate Zoology, Los Angeles, California.

I have with me a complete set of *Maryland Birdlife* for binding for Cylburn and 3 sets of 1976 to present for binding for Carey Run, Irish Grove and tum Suden.

When *Maryland Birdlife* is mailed I would appreciate 10 copies of each issue to fill orders. Additional copies of out of date, but still very readable, *Maryland Birdlives* are available for \$1/copy. Send requests with check made out to MOS Library Committee to: Joy Wheeler, 531 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21204.

I am submitting 3 book reviews to the *Maryland Birdlife* Editor: *The Pleasures of Watching Birds* by Lola Oberman, *A Birder's Guide to Trinidad and Tobago* by William Murphy, and *Resources, Preservation, Management, Mill Creek Preserve, Talbot County* by Jan Reese, et al. All authors are MOS members.

*Joy Wheeler, Chairman*

## LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, 1986-1987

This committee has begun to examine whether there is a need for the state organization to take a larger role in improving the field birding skills of its intermediate and advanced birders. MOS is fortunate in counting among its membership some of the finest field birders in the nation. Is there a desire by members for structured opportunities to acquire additional field skills from some of these outstanding specialists? If there is, what form should it take?

The examination of this idea was begun, but not completed, during the current year and will continue. Discussion and comments from some chapters and individuals have enabled the committee to focus on the following questions:

1. Are there sufficient resources currently available?
2. Can MOS expect nationally recognized field birders to always donate their services?
3. Should equal examination be given to MOS' role in improving the skills of beginning birders?
4. Should field experiences that have value and interest for the entire membership be sponsored or, at least, co-sponsored by the state organization?
5. Should the changes in life styles and leisure activities of the past few decades force an examination of the whole program of field activities?

Jerry Fletcher, Teresa Simons and I welcome comments and suggestions from individuals and chapters during the coming year before making any recommendations.

*Joanne K. Solem, Chairman*

## RECORDS COMMITTEE, March 25, 1987

This report covers the period mid-March 1986 to mid-March 1987. The MOS Records Committee held its annual meeting on March 22, 1986; most of its work, however, is conducted by correspondence throughout the year. The committee had 38 records pending from 1985-1986; it took under consideration an additional 30 records during the year, and came to a decision on 33 records. Records are listed periodically in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, first as "Records Under Review," then as committee decisions at a later date. All observers receive an individual letter regarding the committee's decision before the result is published in the newsletter. This letter includes comments about the record for the benefit of the observer, such as favorable remarks on the record or constructive criticism of the documentation.

The MOS Records Committee published an amendment to its "Criteria for Review" in regard to Piping Plover, now listed as an endangered species at the Federal level (*Maryland Yellowthroat* 6, No. 4). An article titled "Documenting Rarities: When and Why," by Rick Blom, appeared in *Maryland Birdlife* 39 (4):106-107 during the year. The committee anticipates another fruitful year of reviewing unusual records of the state's avifauna.

*Erika Wilson, MOSRC Secretary*



## RESEARCH COMMITTEE, 1986-1987

The Research Committee made further efforts this year to attract more applicants for the research grants. We made a special effort to reach young applicants by changing the due date to permit students to plan and undertake Summer and Fall projects. We sent announcements of our grants to 12 ornithological periodicals. We sent out 80 letters and made several follow-up phone calls. We have also provided detailed information to Richard Banks, of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, for a new booklet listing research grants available nationwide for ornithological research.

We awarded two grants for the 1986-87 fiscal year. The current grantees are: Margaret and Morrill Donnal: Continuation of a Three-year Project: Computerization and Analysis of Banding Data at the Adventure Banding Station; and Paul W. Schaefer and son: Aspects of Winter Foraging and Roosting Behavior in the Screech-Owl. It is interesting that both projects employ sophisticated computer techniques.

The Research Committee is sponsoring a Poster Session at the Annual Conference. Three of our grant recipients are presenting the current findings of their on-going research. In addition, David Brinker is presenting results from the first two summers' work on the Maryland Colonial Waterbird Project. Our hope is to increase knowledge of and interest in ornithological research. We also hope everyone has enjoyed it.

*Margaret Hubbard Jones, Chairman*

## SANCTUARY COMMITTEE REPORT

There were no formal meetings of the Sanctuary Committee during the past year. However, several projects were undertaken by the Committee.

### PROPOSAL FOR A DAM AT MILL CREEK

In August and September of 1986 five members of the Committee were involved in investigating a proposal to install a dam at the Mill Creek Sanctuary. After due consideration this group recommended to the Board of Directors to reject the proposal.

### IRISH GROVE WORKDAY

On November 1, 1986, the annual workday was held at Irish Grove Sanctuary. Several projects were accomplished: clearing brush from the pool near Round Pond, mowing the fields, laying a trail between Canal Road and Round Pond, making a new pump shed, cleaning the house and an excursion to the north end of the property. It was also determined that the water pipes were in such bad shape that they needed to be replaced.

The usual good Turkey dinner was provided by the Wicomico Chapter and enjoyed by all. There were good opportunities to do birding too.

### CAREY RUN WORKDAY

On April 25, 1987, the annual workday was held at Carey Run Sanctuary. The house was cleaned and opened for the season. The yard was cleaned up and pruning done on trees and bushes in the yard.

A potluck picnic, provided by the Allegany Chapter, was enjoyed by all—including two men from the Electric Company who had arrived at that time to reconnect the broken power line. There was also time to do some good birding.

### IRISH GROVE PLUMBING

On May 9, 1987, Jeff Effinger, from the Talbot Chapter, spent most of the day under the house at Irish Grove, tearing out old pipe and installing new pipes. The cold water pipes were successfully connected. However, an unexpected problem prevented connecting the hot water. This work is scheduled to be completed at the next workday.

*Dorothy Mumford, Chairman*

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to report the winners of three scholarships awarded annually for attendance at National Audubon Ecology Workshops. Ms. Denise Ashman, Outdoor Rec./Educ. Instructor with the Department of Recreation and Parks, is winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West. Ms. Jane Story, Fourth Grade Teacher at Central Elementary School in Anne Arundel County, is winner of a Helen Miller Scholarship and will also be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in the West. Mr. Douglas Dickey, Director of Outdoor Education at St. Paul's School for Boys in Brooklandville, is winner of the Orville Crowder Scholarship and will be attending the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine.

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to report the following winners of our three ornithology scholarships. Mr. Glenn Swiston, Teacher/Naturalist at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center, is winner of the Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship and will be attending a workshop in ornithology offered by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University. Mr. Arthur Gundell, Biology Teacher at the Baltimore Lutheran High School, is winner of the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship and will be attending the Field Ornithology Workshop at the Audubon Camp in Maine. Ms. Carol Beyna, Science Teacher at the Howard B. Owens Science Center in Prince George's County, is the winner of the Jimmy Wood Scholarship and will be attending the Field Ornithology Workshop at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation to all the chapters that have helped to locate candidates for these scholarships. We have had a very fine group of candidates and we are sure the information and inspiration gained by all those attending these Workshops will be used to the benefit of those with whom they work or have contact. We are grateful to all those who support the Scholarship Program of our Society.

*Mildred Gebhard, Chairman*

For brief reports from other committees see pages 103-105. No Chapter Reports were received from Baltimore, Howard, or Montgomery, three of our most active chapters.

## BALD EAGLE SUCCESSFULLY NESTS IN BALTIMORE COUNTY

GLENN D. THERRES AND MARILYN MAUSE

On April 29, 1987, Mause and Melvin Tawney observed an adult Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) on a nest in Days Cove, Baltimore County, Maryland. The nest was discovered during a waterfowl breeding survey along the Gunpowder Falls. An adult was observed sitting on the nest, presumably incubating eggs or brooding young. The observation was made at a distance of 100 meters with 7x50 binoculars.

The nest was located in the crotch of an oak tree, approximately three meters from the top of the tree. At that time of year leaf-out had not yet occurred, so visibility of the nest was good.

While conducting an aerial survey for nesting Bald Eagles, Therres and pilot George "Skip" Lacey confirmed that the pair successfully produced two young. On May 28, 1987 (the date of the aerial survey), the young were estimated to be eight weeks old. The observation was made from a fixed-wing Cessna 180 airplane, approximately 30 meters above the nest. An adult was nearby at the time of the survey.

This successful nesting attempt was the first known for the Bald Eagle in Baltimore County since 1936. Bryant Tyrrell (unpub. report, National Audubon Society) reported that two pairs successfully produced four young in the county that year. One nest was located on the Bird River near the current site, the other on Back River Neck. These were the last reported successful attempts in the county. In 1952, adults were reported at a nest on Carroll Island in the Gunpowder River (Willis, E., 1954. Summary of Maryland nest records, 1952. Md. Birdlife. 10(1):3-10). In 1960, an adult was seen carrying nesting materials in the Loch Raven Reservoir area (Sanderson, unpub. report, DNR), but no nest was ever located.

With the recent increase in the Bald Eagle nesting population in the State, and with three pairs of eagles nesting at Aberdeen Proving Grounds (between 10-20 km to the east), it is not too surprising that the Days Cove area was chosen.

*Maryland Forest, Park & Wildlife Service  
Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401*

## BOOK REVIEW

**A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.** William L. Murphy. 1986. Peregrine Enterprises, Inc. P.O. Box 1003, College Park, Maryland, USA 20740. 124p. \$12.95.

It's always good news to hear that one of our MOS members has published a book for birders. Bill Murphy, Past President and current Treasurer of Patuxent Chapter, and MOS Membership List Manager, is among the latest to do so, in November 1986. He gives credit for his inspiration to his professor at the

University of Maryland, well known MOS birder and Director of World Nature Tours, Dr. Donald Messersmith. Bill admits to developing an obsession with the "tropical blend of birdlife" found in these two islands after his first introduction to them by Messersmith. His text reflects the objective interpretation of what he has learned on his many return visits.

But don't throw away your French or Bond. This is not a field guide. If you've already visited this prime birding spot (almost 400 birds possible), you'll recognize that the value of Murphy's directions lies in how to get there and where to find your most wanted bird when you do get there, not on how to identify the birds you're seeing. If you've never been to either island, you'll find the suggestions for travel most helpful: when to visit, how to get there, where to stay, guide services, etc. Twelve pages of bar graphs indicate quickly the likelihood of sighting a specific bird at a specific time of year.

An unexpected but welcome addition to a birdwatching book is the guide for snorkelers, something you may need after you've seen your requisite number of birds. This trim, easily packed book belongs in the plans and later in the travel bag of the serious birder on the way to Trinidad and Tobago. Bill Murphy can be proud of his book, which he reports is already in its second printing—proof that it must be moving well in our nature and travel book stores.

*Joy Wheeler*

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